

MEMORANDUM

8 August 1963

SUBJECT: New Domestic Economic and Political Measures Impending in Cuba

1. Cuban leaders are planning the implementation of a number of important new measures in an effort further to consolidate the regime and to make its administrative and economic machinery more efficient. ~~Summary of the measures are~~ ~~may~~ Fidel Castro, in his 4 August conversation with visiting Japanese legislators, referred to the need for "structural reorganization" in the governmental and administration and in the economic field. Although the exact nature of many of the ~~new~~ planned improvisations is not known, ^{general} references to them in the public speeches of various regime leaders ^{provide enough information when} suggest that ~~if~~ ^{to} they are implemented the combined ^{impact} ~~effect~~ on the country's social and ~~political and~~ economic life is likely to be important. Various measures in the offing range ~~from~~ from the political, such as the formal organization of the regime's political machine, to measures designed to increase labor productivity and control. Other measures have the frank objective of further weakening the remnants of the Cuban middle class. In general, the goal seems to be to implant in Cuba many of the measures ~~which have been employed in older Communist~~ being employed in older Communist ~~countries~~ countries. Whether or not they are being implemented as a result of Soviet advice tendered Castro during his recent visit in the USSR, their implementation will presumably be consistent with the advice which is understood to have been given him: to concentrate on consolidating the revolution and making the economy more efficient.

2. In the political sphere, the ~~organizational~~ formal organization of the Cuban political machine is expected to be completed sometime this year with the convocation of a First National Congress. The party, the United Party of the Socialist Revolution (PURS), has been in the process of organization--theoretically

from the ground up—for more than two years and during recent months at an accelerated pace. While the PURS is to be, in Che Guevara's words, "the motor of the revolution," its actual functions may ~~relativize~~ be largely to exhorting the population to greater and greater efforts and ^{to} increasing increase the people's regimentation. Despite any references that may be forthcoming to "collective leadership", Fidel Castro's position of political primacy is not expected to be significantly affected. Nevertheless, the party ~~is~~ is at least in theory to be the Cuban equivalent of the Communist parties in the Soviet bloc countries and its formal establishment will further institutionalize the regime and, in the long run, it may make ~~Castro's personal~~ the personal leadership of one man less vital to the continuation of the regime.

3. In his 26 July speech, Castro revealed that compulsory military service will shortly be instituted for all Cubans. He explained this by declaring that every Cuban must learn to defend the country. He announced the impending measure, however, in the context of a violent attack on the Cuban "parasites"—remnants of the middle classes. He said that ~~enforcement of~~ compulsory military service, combined with enforcement of Cuban laws on obligatory education in state-run schools, will make it possible for Cuba to become a country "more and more of workers and less and less of parasites." It is important, he explained, that the sons of today's "parasites" do not become "tomorrow's potential lumpen."

*Large standardization
work starts
AWAP - to change in structure
become being administrative
of. not. client of*